

AF / ITW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

the Application of

Makoto IIDA

Group Art Unit: 1792

Application No.: 10/586,476

Examiner: G. RAO

Filed: July 18, 2006

Docket No.: 128768

For: A METHOD FOR PRODUCING SEMICONDUCTOR WAFERS AND A SYSTEM FOR
DETERMINING A CUT POSITION IN A SEMICONDUCTOR INGOT

FORWARDING CERTIFIED PRIORITY DOCUMENT TO USPTO

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The benefit of the filing date of the foreign priority document, Japanese Application No. 2004-026887, filed February 3, 2004, was requested on January 20, 2005 in International Application PCT/JP2005/000641, from which the above-identified patent application is the U.S. National Phase of, and the priority provided in 35 U.S.C. §119 was thereby claimed.

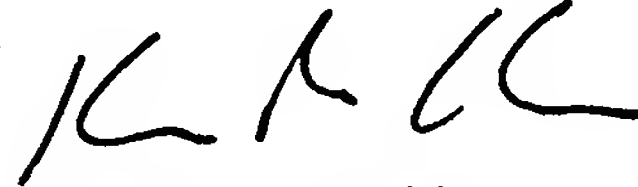
The U.S. Patent Office acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 but indicated that the foreign priority document was not received, as evidenced by the October 27, 2009 Office Action. The U.S. Patent Office requests in the October 27, 2009 Office Action that Applicant file a copy of the foreign priority document.

According to PCT Rule 17.2, the International Bureau must furnish a copy of the priority document to the designated Office (U.S. Patent Office) at the specific request of the designated Office. As required under PCT Rule 17.2, it is the U.S. Patent Office that must request a copy of the priority document from the International Bureau. Thus, Applicant should not be required under 35 U.S.C. §119(b) to file a certified copy of the foreign priority document.

Yet, to expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, Applicant provides a certified copy of the priority document.

It is requested that the file of this application be marked to indicate that the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §119 have been fulfilled and that the Patent and Trademark Office kindly acknowledge receipt of this document.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 22, 2010

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